



Snohomish County
Planning and Development
Services

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ONLINE INFORMATION

www.snohomishcountywa.gov/1190



This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Archaeological Sites Advisory

Assistance Bulletin

103

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Advisory

The Washington State Department of Archaeological and Historical Preservation has developed a predictive model to help determine areas which may have a high probability of containing previously unknown archaeological materials. Snohomish County Planning and Development Services (PDS) uses this model to assist its citizens in identifying properties which may contain such materials. Upon submittal of any type of permit involving ground disturbing activity, you will be advised whether your property or development site is located within an area predicted to have very high archaeological sensitivity. Caution should therefore be taken on such properties during all project activities.

Be advised that **archaeological sites and human remains are protected under State statutes RCW 27.53, 27.44, and 68.60, and a permit from the Department of Archaeological and Historical Preservation (DAHP) is required to disturb them.** State permit applications and procedures can be found on DAHP's website at: <http://www.dahp.wa.gov/archaeological-permitting>. If your project results in the discovery of archaeological materials, stop work immediately and follow the procedure below.

Extra precautions need to be taken for any ground disturbing activities—even for small yard projects which do not require a permit from PDS. If archaeological materials are uncovered, the discovery must be reported. Outlined below is information to assist in identifying and reporting the discovery of archeological materials.

Q: What are archaeological materials?

A: State RCW27.53.040 defines cultural materials as “physical evidence of an indigenous and subsequent culture including material remains of past human life including monuments, symbols, tools, facilities, and technological by-products.” The following list gives some specific examples, but it is by no means all inclusive. Refer to pages 3-8 for examples and pictures.

- Logging, mining, or agriculture equipment older than 50 years
- Historic bottles, ceramics, pottery, and soldered dot cans
- Buried layers of black soil with layers of shell, charcoal, and fish and mammal bones. Buried cobbles may indicate a hearth feature.
- Non-natural sediment or stone deposits that may be related to activity areas of people
- Bone, shell, horn, or antler tools that may include needles, awls, beads, and projectile points
- Stone tools that may include projectile points (arrowheads), scrapers, cutting tools, wood working wedges or axes, and grinding stones
- Perennially damp areas may have preservation conditions that allow for remnants of wood and other plant fibers. In these locations there may be remains including fragments of basketry, weaving, wood tools, or carved, wooden pieces.
- Human skeletal remains

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete legal information, refer to Snohomish County Code.

Q: What do I do if archaeological materials are found on my property?

A: To “*knowingly* remove, alter, dig into, or excavate by use of any mechanical, hydraulic, or other means, or to damage, deface, or destroy any historic or prehistoric archaeological resource or site, or remove any archaeological object from such site” without a DAHP permit is prohibited by State RCW 27.53. If during the course of work, artifacts or human remains are unexpectedly discovered on your property, **all work must stop immediately and the following procedures must be followed.** (Snohomish County Code 30.32D.220)

A. If the discovery includes **archaeological materials**:

1. Upon discovery, stop all work in the area of discovery and immediately move all equipment, machinery, and workers away from the disturbed and adjacent area. If work does not stop, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services (hereafter referred to as PDS) may issue a stop work order pursuant to SCC 30.85. Leave the artifacts in place, and secure the site.
2. The *permit applicant* or *his/her representative* shall immediately notify:
Director, Snohomish County Planning & Development Services: (425) 388-3311 **and**
Wendy Becker, Economic and Cultural Development Officer: (425) 388-3186
3. The *property owner* or *project proponent* shall immediately notify:
Gretchen Kaehler, DAHP, Local Government Archaeologist: (360) 586-3088 office
(360) 628-2755 Cell **or**
Stephenie Kramer, DAHP, Assistant State Archaeologist: (360) 586-3083 office
(360) 485-5014 Cell

Any affected local Indian Tribe (the State Archeologists can help you determine which tribes to contact.):

Samish Tribe: Jackie Ferry, Archaeologist	(360) 293-6404 ext. 215
Sauk Suiattle: Janice Mabee, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	(360) 436-0131
Snoqualmie Tribe: Steven Mullen-Moses	(425) 888-6551
Stillaguamish Tribe: Tara Duff, Cultural Resources Director	(360) 652-7362, ext. 231
Tulalip Tribe: Richard Young	(360) 716-2652
Hank Gobin	(360) 716-2636

4. In addition, it is also the property owner’s responsibility to hire an independent, professional archaeologist to identify and document the discovery. The name of the independent archaeologist must be reported to the State contact shown above and a copy of the archaeology site report forwarded to PDS and to DAHP.

B. If the discovery includes **human skeletal remains**:

1. If ground disturbing activities encounter human skeletal remains during the course of work, then all activity **must** cease that may cause further disturbance to those remains, and the area of the find must be secured and protected from further disturbance. (If work does not cease, PDS may issue a stop work order pursuant to SCC 30.85). The remains **should not** be touched, moved, or further disturbed.
2. In addition, the finding of human skeletal remains must be reported to the county coroner and local law enforcement in the most expeditious manner possible.
Norman Tiersch, Snohomish County Medical Examiner: (425) 388-6200
Snohomish County Sheriff’s Department:
Do Not Call 911, use this nonemergency number: (425) 438-3393

3. After notifying the County Medical Examiner and the County Sheriff, immediately contact the property owner and the project manager. Also notify:
Director, Snohomish Co. Planning & Development Services: (425) 388-3311 *and*
Wendy Becker, Economic and Cultural Development Officer: (425) 388-3186
4. When the County Medical Examiner arrives, he will assume jurisdiction over the human skeletal remains and make a determination of whether those remains are forensic or non-forensic (*i.e.*, whether or not they are from a crime scene or are the remains of a missing person). If the Medical Examiner determines the remains are non-forensic, he will then report that finding to the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) who will then take jurisdiction over those remains and report them to the appropriate cemeteries and affected tribes (RCW 68.60.055). The State Physical Anthropologist will make a determination of whether the remains are Indian or Non-Indian and will report that finding to the affected parties. DAHP will then handle all consultation with the affected parties as to the future preservation, excavation, and disposition of the remains.

Pictures of examples of archaeological materials

The following list includes some examples, but it is by no means all inclusive.

- Historic Artifacts



Examples of ceramics (more than 50 years of age) found buried in the soil. (Photos courtesy of the Leaf School, Edmonds Community College, Lynnwood,





Example of a buried layer of black, burnt soils in a hearth site (Photo courtesy of the Washington State Dept. of Archaeological and Historical Preservation)



Example of a buried soil layer containing shells, or Midden (Photo courtesy of the Washington State Dept. of Archaeological and Historical Preservation)

- Stone tools that may include projectile points (arrowheads), scrapers, cutting tools, wood working wedges or axes, and grinding stone



Example of a stone maul used for grinding (Photo courtesy of the Washington State Dept. of Archaeological and Historical Preservation)



Various modified cobble, stone tools (Photo courtesy of the Washington State Dept. of Archaeological and Historical Preservation)



Various types of pointed, stone tools (Photo courtesy of the Washington State Dept. of Archaeological and Historical Preservation)

- Non-natural sediment or stone deposits that may be related to activity areas of people (No photos available)
 - Bone, shell, horn, or antler tools that may include needles, awls, and projectile points (No photos available)
 - Perennially damp areas may have preservation conditions that allow for remnants of wood and other plant fibers. In these locations there may be remains including fragments of basketry, weaving, wood tools, or carved pieces. (No photos available)
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